

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-73

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes 8 pm,
July 11, '97

1 Who is the third fastest server in men's tennis circuit at the moment?
Rusekki Rosset Krajeck

2 How many warm-up matches will Bangladesh play before the World Cup in 1998?
Four Three Six

3 How many matches has Shahbaz played for Pakistan?
219 220 221

4 What is the position of Bangladesh in FIFA rankings for June?
137 138 139

5 Who lifted Cup Premier handball league title?
Ansars Menjis BDR

Name

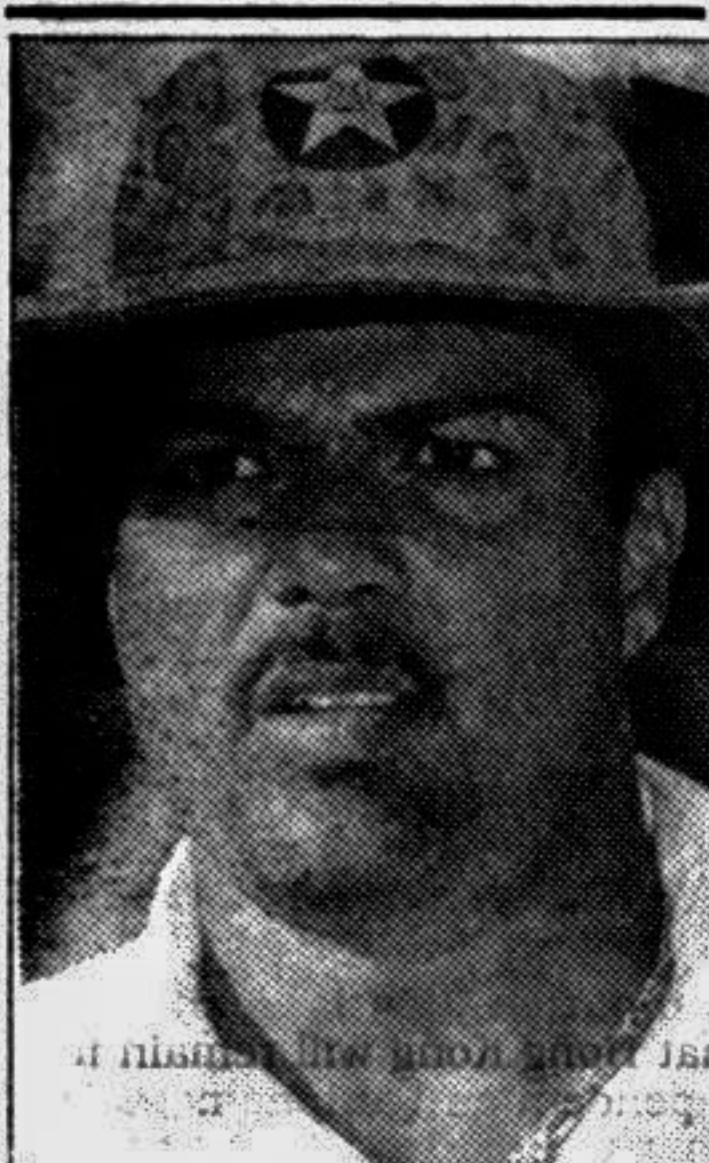
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK



Ijaz Ahmed

(Pakistan batsman)

If you are poor, you have only your performances to speak for you. You always tell yourself that unless you put in your 200 per cent, you will not make it... Since I came from a very poor family, there was not much hope of someone coming to my rescue.

(On his gritty comeback to the national eleven.)



LA PAZ, June 30: Brazil won the Copa America the hard way on Sunday, surviving a second half bombardment and then scoring twice in the last 15 minutes to beat Bolivia 3-1 in the Sunday, report agencies.

Brazilian ace striker Ronaldo had looked one of the players least likely to score until the 78th minute and Ze Roberto added the finishing three minutes into injury time. The victory gave the world champions their fifth title.

The two goals came after Brazil, clearly struggling to cope with the difficulties of playing at 3,600 metres above sea level, had been run-ragged in the second half.

Edmundo, standing in for the injured Romario, had given Brazil a first half lead but the world champions were on the ropes from the moment that Taffarel relieved his La Paz nightmare.

A horrendous miscalculation by the Brazil goalkeeper — a veteran of two World Cups — on the stroke of halftime allowed a 35-metre shot by Erwin Sánchez to sneak between him and the post for the Bolivia equaliser.

Four years ago, Taffarel had scored an own goal as Bolivia beat Brazil 2-0 to hand them their first and only defeat in a World Cup qualifier.

Brazil, clearly hampered by the thin air and cold, were only half the team that had won their five previous games at sea level in Santa Cruz.

Their well-oiled tactical system simply ceased to function, and at times in the second half

the Bolivians, who like Brazil had perfect per cent record on their way to the final, appeared to have an extra two or three players on the field.

Bolivia, sensing Taffarel's uneasiness, took spot shots at his goal from outside the penalty after the break.

Brazil were saved by the crossbar twice while several other shots went flying narrowly wide with the beleaguered goalkeeper seemingly uncertain as to whether to leave them or not.

But Taffarel also made up for his blunder, making a superb save on the hour to parry away a powerful, close-range drive by Julio Cesar Baldyvieso. Shortly afterwards, he dived bravely at the feet of Sanchez to make an other important save.

Edmundo had put Brazil in front in the 37th minute from a rebound after Bolivia goalkeeper Carlos Trucco had failed to hold a low, swerving 30-metre kick by Roberto Carlos.

The 45,000 crowd, who had seen their team enjoy the better of the first half, were briefly silenced but came back to life again after Sanchez's equaliser.

A Bolivia goal seemed only a matter of time after the break until Ronaldo, who has been the subject of a tug-of-war between European clubs over his future, latched on to a long through ball by Denilson and scored with a powerful 20-metre drive.

It was the fifth goal of the tournament for Ronaldo, who had barely touched the ball in the second half.

Substitute Ze Roberto finished off a sweet move to score again in injury time, after the Bolivians had clearly lost

heart.

Bolivia's players claimed that Edmundo had elbowed Luis Cristaldo in the second half but the Brazil striker was immediately substituted by Paulo Nunes with referee Jorge Nieves seemingly oblivious to the trick that was being played.

Nieves left numerous crude tackles unpunished and never mastered the art of keeping defenders nine metres away at free kicks.

It was the first South American title for Brazil since 1989, and the first time in 11 finals away from home.

For Brazil's veteran trainer, Mario Lobo Zagallo, this was an especially sweet victory. He is the only person in the world who has won four World Championships either as player or as technical director. Zagallo played in the 1958 and 1962 teams that won the World Cups. And he was a trainer in the 1970 victory in Mexico and 1994 victory in the United States.

On Sunday, he added another record: the trainer of the first Brazilian team to have won the Copa America on foreign soil.

Bolivia's technical director Antonio Lopez said Sunday night that his team paid a high price for daring to attack Brazil.

"We lost to the best team in the world," said Lopez at a press conference after the game.

Lopez, who is from Spain, regretted that Bolivia had a couple occasions to score but did not take advantage of this.

"We did everything possible to please and reach the title," Lopez said. "Bolivia deserved a better result."

Hours before Argentina's final first round game, however, the organisers announced that if Bolivia turned out to be their quarterfinal opponents, the match would switch to La Paz at 3,600 metres above sea level.

Coach Daniel Passarella threatened to take his team back to Buenos Aires rather than La Paz, his players backed him up and the crisis was inadvertently stopped by the hosts, who finished top of Group B.

Instead, Argentina went on to disgrace themselves in a 2-1 quarterfinal defeat by Peru.

Argentina finished with eight players after having three sent off, two of them following a fight which began because Peru's goalkeeper Miguel Miranda had not given them the ball after they had converted a penalty.

Argentina were equally unwilling protagonists, especially after an opening ceremony when organisers produced a Chilean flag that was missing its large white star.

The team refused to walk behind the flag and the incident sparked a protest from the Santiago government.

After losing their first match 1-0 to Paraguay, the Chileans found they had no hot water in their dressing room. The players had to take cold showers on an evening where, because of Cochabamba's altitude, temperatures were only slightly above freezing.

Chile joined Venezuela, Uruguay and Costa Rica as the four first round losers, while Paraguay, Ecuador and Colombia departed in the quarterfinals along with Argentina.

Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert still made his mark when he scored from a

World Sports Journalist Day



Brazilian Denilson (20) joins his mates on the bench after deadlock has been broken in the Copa America final against Bolivia in La Paz on Sunday. The world champions ran out 3-1 winners.

—AFP/UNB photo

Brazil's first away Copa

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World Sports Journalist Day

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) will observe the World Sports Journalist Day tomorrow.

In this connection a discussion will be held at the auditorium of the National Sports Council (NSC) at 4 pm.

The BSWA, a member of the AIPS, have also decided to honour our two sports writers of the country — Abdul Hamid and Mizanur Rahman.

Argentina's initial reluctance turned into a walkout threat after they became victims of the organisers' attempt to change the rules.

Having finished second in their first round group, Argentina were supposed to play their second-round against the second-placed team in Group B in Sucre, which at 2,700 metres above sea level is roughly the same height as Cochabamba, Argentina's first round venue.

Big wins for Ajax, Azad

Sports Reporter

Ajax Sporting Club recorded their eighth victory in the ongoing Green Delta First Division league with a comfortable 5-1 win over Wari Club in their penultimate match at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

In a one-sided affair, Shuvu struck twice while Rana, Mukti and Prince scored one each for the Elephant Road outfit. Shamimul pulled one back for Wari Club. Centre half Rana put Ajax ahead in the eighth minute with a magnificent scoop from a goalmouth melee while Mukti doubled the margin flicking the ball home from a Prince pass after two minutes.

Prince, the tall Ajax centre forward, then sealed the first half through brilliant field goal in the 19th minute.

After the breather, Wari vying for a berth in the proposed eight-team inaugural Premier league next year, raised some hopes for a draw when Shamimul reduced the margin converting a penalty corner in the 37th minute.

But their hopes faded soon as Ajax, stunned by the goal, retaliated with two goals. Shuvu scoring both in the 56th and 66th minute respectively.

The win raised Ajax's tally to 26 points from 14 matches and kept them fifth in the 16-team league table. On the other hand, Wari remained glued to their previous collection of 18 points, two points adrift of Azad Sporting Club who moved two points clear into eighth with a 4-0 victory over Police Athletics Club in other match.

Yamin netted twice while Rubel and Jubayer added one apiece for Azad.

It was the sixth win for Azad so far in 14 matches which raised their tally to 20 points.

Police, who have already confirmed their relegation to Second Division next year, suffered defeat number 14.

US, El Salvador split points

SAN SALVADOR, June 30: Roy Lassiter scored six minutes into the second half and put another off the crossbar in the final minute Sunday before the United States settled for a 1-1 draw with El Salvador in a World Cup qualifier.

The draw left the Americans (1-1) alone in third place with six points in the six-team final round of CONCACAF qualifying, which reached its midpoint Sunday.

El Salvador improved to 1-2-2 and fourth place with five points.

Mexico lead qualifying with 11 points, followed by Costa Rica with seven. The top three qualify for the World Cup finals in France.

The game was played before a raucous, but well-behaved 38,000, a match that the US State Department had warned of possible crowd violence due to disturbances in El Salvador's previous game against Mexico.

"It is important to get points on the road. It is always a positive result," US coach Steve Sampson said. "This was a tie with some disappointment. We played well enough to win, particularly in the second half."

Pioneer football

Sports Reporter

A brilliant hat-trick by Hasan guided Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra to a 3-0 victory over Khilgaon Judo Sangha in yesterday's Pioneer football league clash at the Basabole ground.

Hasan struck the goals in the 14th, 52nd and 59th minutes.

At the Rajku ground, Pradeep Sangha recorded a 2-1 win over Prantik Krira Chakra.

Kamal was on target for Pradeep Sangha in the ninth and 52nd minutes while Sumon reduced the margin for Prantik in the 29th minute.

Away at the Mahakali T&T ground, Dibiganta Majlish handed Maghaz Sabuj Sangha a 0-3